



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)

From the President

I'm not at the key working DX tonight – there are thunderstorms in the area. Rats. There was some useful DX on today. There was one DXpedition I was trying to finish on all bands, but then I had to shut down - for fear of another "event."

At the January meeting we discussed proposed changes to our constitution and bylaws. There will hence be a vote on the bylaws changes at the meeting on Tuesday. KG4CUY will discuss what this means prior to the vote.

I have been conducting a DX quiz at meetings over the past several months. I'd like to have more members win the contest, so for the next few months I'll publish the DX schedule, which I'll copy from NG3K.com/Misc/adxo.html. (I do have Bill's permission to do this). He has a very interesting website. The February schedule is here in the Long Path, along with all the answers to the quiz. You may want to tab the site on your cellphone. On this test, cheating is not only allowed, but encouraged.

If you haven't visited the ClubLog website, and spent considerable time managing your DXCC situation, you certainly should. I have a terrible time tracking down lost QSLs, and the years go by so quickly that rare ones do indeed get lost. LOTW won't tell you who has sent you a QSL until they verify your log against the other person's. But ClubLog will, so you can root out those lost ones. I use their OQRS system all the time – it works wonderfully well – with better results than I could ever achieve by myself. So Bruce, AC4G, will present our February program on ClubLog and how to mine those lost QSLs.

At Tuesday's meeting I'll ask our Treasurer, Chris, to go through the budget details for 2020, and make his pleas for the membership drive.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, February 11, at Newk's Eatery on University Drive. Dinner at 5:30 and the program will be at 6:15. We'll have another current DX contest, of course. So study up on those call signs.

73 de Bob, K8KI

February Program

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

Bruce Smith (AC4G) will bring us the next NADXC program discussing Club Log and its tools to help each of us track our DXCC countries worked. We will see how to spot new needed countries using Club Log tools and how to increase individual DXCC totals on any and all bands. Be sure to come to February's meeting to find out how to increase your DXCC total count on a single band or multiple bands.

Get to Newk's around 5:30 for dinner, although the business meeting won't start until about 6:00. Because a vote will be called (see p. 2), the business meeting might be a tad long-

er than usual, but not much. Bruce's program ought to be ready to go by 6:30. See you there!



January Meeting Minutes

By Chris Reed, AI4U NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

Bob called the meeting to order at 620pm and welcomed everyone. Twenty-seven members and two guests attended the meeting.

A motion was made to approve the December minutes, the motion was seconded and carried.

Chris, AI4U announced the end of year balance near \$8700.

Bob, K8KI congratulated Bruce, AC4G and Barry on winning the Tennessee QSO party.

Mark, N4BCD provided an update on Huntsville Hamfest, and announced he will attend Orlando Hamcation.

Mark also spoke about the accomplishments of Bryant, KG4HVO including organizing a contest and achieving DXCC.

Tom, KG4CUY explained the process of how the club was going to change the bylaws and constitution to replace honorary membership with emeritus and include language to define Inactive and Active membership. It will take place over the course of the next four months with publication of the changes and then voting for each. See Tom's detailed explanation published in the

January Longpath.

Johnny, KR4F explained the history of the club membership going back almost 40 years with respect to membership.

Bob, K8KI thanked all the volunteers that have been longtime contributors of the Longpath and/or the editor. He asked for others to contribute by writing an article.

Bob also asked for volunteers to Elmer others. A list circulated for members to sign-up.

Stephen Smith, K4YG is still collecting QSL's to send the bureau. It is cheaper to submit them in bulk to the league.

Bob, K8KI also requested members to either do a program or submit an idea for a program. He also spoke about N5DF's article in QEX on the NANO VNA. Steve, AG4W spoke up about how great of a device this is for under \$100 that is fairly accurate. A kindle book explaining how to use and get the most out of the VNA is available for three dollars.

Bob announced that Zambia, 9J2LA has contacted him regarding club sponsorship. A motion to donate \$50 dollars was made but the motion failed.

A motion for a \$100 donation was made, seconded and the motion carried.

Bob, referred to the N3KG site and asked members to use their smart phone and asked his DX quiz from the DX that was on the list including Somalia, Norfolk Island and Palau. Bruce, AC4G and John, N5DF tied, getting all of them correct.

Bob requested ideas for a speaker for this year's banquet. The venue may change. Bob will visit the Springhill and research other venues to host the banquet.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Rob Suggs, NN4NT provided the program, an update on Solar Cycle 25.

Next meeting February 11 at 630pm at Newk's, University Drive.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Reed, AI4U

Proposed Bylaws Change

NADXC Board of Directors

As you will recall from the January LongPath and as discussed at the January meeting, in order to make a few changes to the constitution and by-laws proposed by the board of directors, we must first designate the LongPath as the official means of announcing proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws. This change affects only the by-laws, as follows.

By-laws

The section entitled "The "Long Path"" will be amended to read:

"The *LongPath* is the official newsletter of the North Alabama DX Club, funded by the club membership dues. The current copy of the *LongPath* shall be made available to each NADXC member as an electronic image on the NADXC website. Since hard copies of the LongPath shall be mailed to members electing to submit a mailing fee. Archived copies of the LongPath shall be maintained on the NADXC web site as publicly accessible electronic images.

"The LongPath may be used to fulfill constitutional requirements of membership notification for minutes of regular meetings, notices of board meetings, meeting date notification, publication of proposed budgets, proposed changes to the by-laws, and proposed changes to the constitution. Availability of the most recent edition of the LongPath will be announced to regular members via email."

NADCX Membership Explained

By Bob DePierre, K8KI NADCX President

January 2020

To All Hams in the North Alabama Region:

This is the time of year when all organizations conduct their membership drives. I represent the North Alabama DX Club, an organization about one-tenth the size of HARC, but one of very active operators and experimenters. I invite you to browse our website, www.NADCX.org, and possibly attend one of our meetings if you are not already a member.

Why would you want to join the NADCX? It's because of the members, and the activities that so many of us engage in. If you would like to get on the ARRL DXCC list, or increase your DXCC score, come talk to us. If you like to work HF contests, or would like to learn how to be competitive in a contest, come see what we have to offer. If you are interested in the physics or the many technologies of radio, please ask one of our members about it. Our membership consists of many hams who happen to be employed somewhere in the technology trades, and can engage with you in serious conversations regarding radio subjects that may also interest you. And even if you have just the desire to become a better ham, this may be the place for you.

We currently meet at Newk's Eatery at 44925 University Dr, on the second Tuesday of each month. Eat around

5:30pm. Program starts around 6:15. We have a short business meeting before a technical presentation. Our programs are the best technical and operating presentations you will see anywhere. Like any ham club, our members have a diverse array of interests, so I enjoy chatting with all those present each month just to hear their plans. Our members are mostly pretty aggressive folks, and are very competent in their trades.

We try to financially support a DXpedition or two each year. These efforts are primarily what keep the rare DX on the air, and they are the life blood of our organization. We want to make sure competitive hams from around the globe keep this up, so we'll support them within our budget...or maybe beyond. Our dues are what primarily support this. One of our members actually travelled to Cape Verde Island (off the

coast of West Africa) for a DX contest last autumn, and will somehow make it all the way to Swains Island (about 200 miles north of Samoa) for a DXpedition next month. That's beyond exciting. Would you like to talk to him about it, or hear the stories? Come to one of our meetings.

We also sponsor a banquet at the Huntsville Hamfest. We always attract a renowned speaker, and support a wide array of door prizes. You don't want to miss this event! We sold 114 tickets last year, and intend to keep the growth going.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 11. I hope to see you there. Please go to our website and read the new Long Path, due out Saturday February 8

73 de bob k8ki -.- --.. -.- ..

Swains History and DXpedition Planning

By Steve Werner, AG4W

Swains Island is an atoll in the Tokelau chain located between American Samoa and Tokelau. The island is the subject of an ongoing territorial dispute between Tokelau and the United States, which administers it as part of American Samoa. The island became a part of American Samoa in 1925. It is privately owned by the Eli Hutchinson Jennings family and was used as a copra plantation. Copra is made when the meat from coconuts is dried and later used to make coconut oil. He purchased the island from British Captain Turnbull who claimed ownership by discovery for fifteen shillings per acre and a bottle of gin. The "residency", which is dilapidated, consisted of a rustic four bedroom house built in the 1800s to accommodate the Jennings family. Swains Island had a population of 17 Tokelauans in 2010, who harvest

the island's coconuts. The total area of Swains is 461 acres. The land area is 1.5 square kilometers (0.58 sq mi) or 373 acres. The central lagoon is 88 acres. The lagoon formerly was fresh water, but now is brackish and a source of mosquitoes. Drinking water can only come from rainfall.

Swains Island is considered to be a county-equivalent by the U.S. Census Bureau. For DXCC it is a separate country in CQ zone 32 and ITU zone 62. For IOTA it is OC-200. With only 17 residents living on Swains Island as of 2010, it is the least populated permanently-inhabited county or county-equivalent in the United States. Currently Swains has no residents. The last ones left in about 2014. In 2005 it had 37 residents living in twenty houses,

Cont'd on p. 4

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of January 1	\$8638.51
Payment to Tokelau	-\$300.00
Nadxc.org domain	-\$16.88
Balance as of January 31	\$8321.63

Swains DXpedition

(cont'd from p. 3)

along with a copra shed which was also the town hall, a communications shed, school and church. After Cyclone Percy in 2005 only the church remained standing. During the cyclone only 7 people were on the island which were provided airdrops by the US Coast Guard of food, water and other necessities. The peak population of the island was during World War 2 when it had 125 residents and a naval radio station. Recently Alex Jennings has sought to diversify the economy by growing breadfruit for export as breadfruit flour for sale in Samoa, Hawaii and the United States.

In 2013 a documentary film "Swains Island- One of the Last Jewels of the Plant" was made by Jean-Michel Cous-teau. He noted that it has coconut crabs which are the largest land-living arthropods in the world. They can grow to over a meter across and weigh 9 pounds. I can't wait for one of those to crawl up and surprise me in the middle of the night.



The last 2 DXpeditions to Swains were in 2007, N8S which made 117,000 contacts and in 2012, NH8S made 105,456 contacts.

I thought you might be interested in some of the things that need to be considered when planning a tent/generator DXpedition. This type of DXpedition is far more difficult when there is no infrastructure you can count

on. Most of us just work the station and don't know about all the decisions that go into making it successful. I will cover a few of the decisions for Swains W8S and our teams answers.

Date- March 10-25, 2020



Number of operators 10-DL6JGN, PA3EWP, DJ9HX, DL6KVA, DJ9ON, PA4WM, PG5M, KO8SCA, DL2AMD, AG4W

A doctor 1- DL2AMD

Number of pilots 5 -DL7JAN, G3WGV, N1DG, HK3W, PA3FQA

Generators-3, one for each camp, about 5KW. Fuel- Four 55 gallon drums.

Stations Equipment - Elecraft K3 and Expert Amplifiers. We will have one spare of each.

Logging- N1MM+ with WSJT-X

We can operate on the same band with 2 modes at the same time.

Antennas-14 consisting of Verticals, Phased Verticals, VDA, Hex Beams, K9AY. These are being shipped to American Samoa in 4 boxes weighing 575 pounds total from Europe. They include 2,250 feet of coax.

Band pass filters will be used by each station.

A detail propagation study has been prepared and will be updated prior to leaving.

Communications between camps- WiFi and 2 meters.



The original boat we were going to use to get there was the Manuatele which is a 135 foot passenger and cargo ship. It would be a one day boat ride from American Samoa. On January 15th it was damaged during Cyclone Tino when it slammed into a dock causing \$200,000 damage, so a replacement boat is likely going to be used.

American Samoa is currently under a State of Emergency due to a measles outbreak. I had to get a measles shot and a government document to show I got it. On January 31st the Governor of American Samoa extended the State of Emergency to include the Coronavirus. New drastic measures include only entry can be made from Hawaii. You must spend 14 days in Hawaii prior to going to American Samoa. This and boat availability could impact our DXpedition. It could be delayed to October when propagation would be good again.

We currently are having video phone calls at least once a week and are exchanging emails everyday to prepare for this exciting adventure.

I am pleased that so far over 35 clubs, foundations and corporate sponsors have supported W8S. We have also had over 150 individual sponsors. I am proud that NADXC is supporting our DXpedition and look forward to flying our club flag on Swains.

Proposed 2020 Budget
NADXC Board of Directors

Proposed Budget for 2020									